

THE CAUSE OF THE BATTLING BOER

View of Montagu White, Representative of the South African Republic in the United States.

Mr. Montagu White is the able representative of the South African republic in the United States, and although he takes an active part in the discussion of the situation relative to South Africa, he has done so in such a diplomatic manner as to give no offense to the United States government. To avoid such complications he has been obliged to exercise a great deal of discretion. Mr. White was consul-general of the Transvaal in London previous to the war. Since it began he has served his country in various capacities.

He would be taken for an Englishman almost anywhere, and his name indicates British rather than Dutch blood, but then there are many men of English blood who are working and fighting for the Boer cause.

Mr. White was asked for an interview concerning the military situation in South Africa. He replied by saying that, not being a military man in any way, he was not competent to discuss military affairs. Besides, it took about six weeks for communications from the Transvaal to reach him. Naturally such communications, bearing more particularly on diplomatic affairs, did not disclose military conditions or probable movements.

"The relief of Kimberley and Ladysmith," said Mr. White, "were not serious reverses for the Boers. It is because of the serious effect they have on the wavering more than anything else that they are to be regretted. I believe that there was a minority in the Free State opposed to the war, and there are always some who determine their position according to the successes of the cause. It was believed from the beginning that we must at one time or another fall back upon our strongholds in the Transvaal. Our resources are excellent. We had supplies of arms and provisions both for offense and defense. That set apart for the defensive has not been exhausted and the defensive stores have not yet been drawn upon. It is quite plain that the Boers can make a strong defensive campaign and extend the war for a long time.

"Time is of great importance to us. The longer we hold the British forces in check the greater opportunity there is for something to happen which will help us and embarrass the English. Who can tell what will happen in Afghanistan? Not long ago there was a little flurry on the Canadian border at Esquimaux. Possibly that did not amount to much, but it showed how many things may occur which might trouble Great Britain.

"While I do not know what is to be the plan of the campaign, I should think that there will be no resistance to the British advance before it reaches the neighborhood of Pretoria, although a sufficient force will be in the field at all times to make it impossible for the British to move forward with any speed. They will have to fight at every point where resistance can be made.

"I have been criticised for saying

that Johannesburg would probably be destroyed as a preliminary to the defense of Pretoria. Of course, when war occurs there are certain laws to be observed, and there should not be a needless destruction of property. Johannesburg, on account of its proximity to Pretoria, will make an excellent base of attack for the British. It will furnish barracks and quarters, storehouses and a most favorable base of supplies. If left intact it would make the campaign most comfortable and charming for the British. The buildings would be used for the soldiers, thus avoiding tents and other camp accessories. If you are at war, you cannot provide cozy corners for your enemies. The burning of a city as a military necessity is not a rare occurrence. It has always been regarded as a legitimate means of defense. Everybody knows that Moscow was burned for that reason. It was a desperate, but heroic, undertaking, and accomplished the purpose. The burning of the American capital by the British in 1814, on the other hand, was described by Historian Greene as a disgraceful and wanton act, and no doubt for no military advantage.

"I cannot see how the Boers can be expected to furnish the British with a very pleasant camp, with all the necessities for prosecuting a siege within a short distance from the capital where the main defense is to be made.

"The important matter for the Boers now is time. The longer they hold out the greater will become the sympathy with the Boers in all parts of the United States. The people of the United States naturally sympathize with the oppressed, and under prolonged oppression their sympathies will rise. Even now this feeling of sympathy is growing in strength. But I think there is nothing like a well-organized campaign in their behalf.

Mr. White's attention was called to the recent demonstrations in England on St. Patrick's day, when the English people outdid the Irish in the "wearing of the green."

"England will not succeed in capturing the Irish by the demonstration," he said, "but it will naturally enflame the soldiers. The Irish members of parliament and the priests will not be caught by the shadow. They will not agitate for the substance.

"Whatever may be the outcome of the war," said Mr. White, "it will have a very far-reaching effect. It will tend to strengthen the military power of England. It will for a time consolidate the empire, but I think it is bound to have a disintegrating effect. It will give rise to problems that will be difficult to solve. The colonies, knowing their strength, will make demands that cannot be complied with by the home government. The inevitable tendency will be toward the independence of the colonies, and it will be difficult to check this.

"In England itself this war is bound to have unexpected results. Under the influence of yellow journals and Cæsarism the character of the English

seems to be undergoing a change, and that for the worse. There will be a rude awakening some day." Washington, D. C.

TURKISH BOYS IN SCHOOL.

Some Astonishing Verses Taught the Young Students.

The beginning of a Mohammedan boy's school life is always made an occasion for a festival. It occurs on his seventh birthday. The entire school goes to the new scholar's home.

Art and Religious Faith.

The art of a people, says Annetta Halliday Antona, in an article in Self-Culture, on "Easter-Tide Art and its



MONTAGU WHITE.

leading a richly caparisoned and flower bedecked donkey. The new pupil is placed on this little beast, and with his hodja, or teacher, leading the children form a double file and escort him to the schoolhouse, singing joyous hymns. To a stranger the common Turkish school presents a singular scene. The pupils are seated cross-legged on the bare marble pavement in the porch of the mosque, forming a semicircle about the hodja, who is, as a rule, an old fat man. He holds in his hand a stick long enough to reach every student. By means of this rod he is enabled not only to preserve order among the mischievous, but to urge on the boy whose recitation is not satisfactory. But as a rule, hodjas are lazy and often fall asleep. A half-grown boy, in the presence of a missionary, who tells the story, asked the hodja: "What makes it rain?" "Up in the clouds," answered this wise teacher, "our prophet Mahomet and the one who belongs to the Christians went into business together, the profits to be divided. One night Mahomet stole all the profits and ran away. In the morning when the Christian god discovered his loss he pursued Mahomet in his golden chariot, the rumbling of whose wheels

Makers," is the outcome of its religious faith; the details of that art are the result of observation of surrounding scenery and objects. It is easy to recognize the superb physical vigor and beauty of the ancient Greeks in their sculptures, and in Hellenic frieze and bas-relief, to discover the mythological legends of their faith.

Christianity inspired by renaissance art, rent the veil of heathen tradition, and gave to the world its Madonnas, its Crucifixions, its Assumptions, Entombments, Last Suppers, and various studies of the Christ. Christian mythology, replacing the gods and heroes of Greek fable, brought forth a new school of interpreters in the place of those who had so long and so grandly translated in art the beauties and the teachings of Hellenic mythology.

Why Americans Win.

One of the many reasons why American manufacturers are so successful competing in foreign markets is to be found in the following episode, which occurred recently: An American manufacturer of steam specialties was visiting an English firm which made similar goods. A certain article which both firms made was under discussion. "What is your price on this thing?" asked the American. "Well, in your money, about \$19," replied the Englishman. "What does it cost you?" "I'll deliver at your door all you want at \$7 apiece," said the American. "How in the world do you do it?" "Well, I'll illustrate," answered the American. "Look out of that window and across the street. See that man painting a sign?" "Yes." "He's on a ladder, isn't he?" "Yes." "See that other man sitting on the sidewalk holding the foot of the ladder?" "Yes." "Now, in America we have ladders that stand up by themselves—don't need a man to hold 'em. So, you see, in this instance, we divide your cost of labor exactly by two." "I see," remarked the Englishman.—Electrical Review.

Long Delayed Letter Appears.

The long arm of coincidence and the delays of the postoffice are curiously illustrated by the following story. A family took a house one autumn at the seashore. The husband went down first of all to see that all was well. His wife wrote to him. That letter did not arrive. It never transpired why. Perhaps the missive hitched on to a ledge inside a wallbox, as has been known to occur, and remained there till the box was cleaned or itself was knocked off by other letters. The next year the same family took the same house for the same time. Before they had been there a week the missing letter arrived. It bore the postmark of the day before, and there was no explanation.—Chicago News.

Catholic Priest on Cuba.

The Rev. Charles Warren Currier has an interesting article on the history of the church in Cuba in the Conservative Review. He speaks about the appointment of Mgr. Sbarretti, and has little sympathy for those who wanted a Cuban-born bishop. He holds that Bishop Sbarretti's appointment was a wise one, and that he will be absolutely impartial, and should therefore prove a link to bind together the Cuban and Spanish priests. He is tactful and prudent, and his administration will undoubtedly promote harmony.

GENERAL SPORTING.

CURRENT EVENTS IN VARIOUS FIELDS.

The International Athletic Exhibitions at Paris Have Begun to Attract Attention of American University Teams—Georgetown to Be Represented.

Activity of Pugilists.

Never before in the history of the prize ring were the leading pugilists more active in arranging matches than at present, and never before were so many big fights on the tapis at one time. Bouts already arranged will bring together Jeffries and Corbett, Sharkey and McCoy, Fitzsimmons and Ruhlman, McCoy and Creedon, Sharkey and Ruhlman, Fitzsimmons and Choyinski, Walcott and Smith, and Tommy Ryan and Jack Root of Chicago. Walcott and West, Fitzsimmons and Dunkhorst, this list including nearly every pugilist of note now before the public. Quite a number of other bouts, which promise to bring together the big fellows in other combinations, such as Fitzsimmons and McCoy, Fitzsimmons and Sharkey, McCoy and Jeffries, Jeffries and Fitzsimmons, Ruhlman and any one who will meet him, are talked of. The fact that the repeal of the New York boxing law goes into effect on Sept. 1 is responsible for this seeming undue haste on the part of the gentlemen of the prize ring, for they are all in the business for what there is in it, rather than glory.

The first of the battles between the big men is that between Corbett and Jeffries, at Coney Island on May 11. Then comes the McCoy-Sharkey affair, at the same club, early in June. Fitzsimmons and Ruhlman have agreed to battle at the Westchester A. C. about June 2, and will fight in the daytime, so as to take pictures of the contest. Ruhlman and Sharkey will meet in a twenty-five-round fight at the Coney Island Sporting club on July 16, to fight for 60 per cent of the gate gross receipts. Of this the winner is to take 75 per cent and the loser 25 per cent. Dan Creedon, the Australian middleweight, and Kid McCoy will box twenty-five rounds at Broadway A. C., New York, at catchweights, May 18, for 50 per cent of the receipts. Creedon has also been matched to meet Joe Walcott at Milwaukee during the first week in June.

Jim Jeffries' Brother.

Jack Jeffries, in the estimation of Tommy Ryan, will some day fill the championship shoes now worn by his brother Jim. Brother Jack is a strong, husky young fellow who knows considerable of the fighting game. Before making play for the highest honors in pugilism Ryan says he will steer "Jack" against some of the third and fourth raters just to take off the rough edges. Should it ever come to pass that "Jack" becomes the champion it will be the first instance on record where two brothers held the title.

A Wonderful Billiardist.

Willie Hoppe, who is but 11 years of age, is believed to be the coming liva of the billiard world. The youngster is a marvel with the cue, and has created a great sensation wherever he has appeared. He has beaten some of the best players in the country, men who have followed the game for years. He is equally good at all style of billiards, playing 14 and 18 inch balkline, cushion carom and straight-rail with wonderful steadiness and accuracy. Maurice Daly, who instructed the lad, is confident that he will be the world's champion in the course of a few years. Willie comes from Cornwall-on-the-Hudson. When 6 years old he could play pool like an expert. Later he took up billiards, and after



WILLIE HOPPE.

but a short period of practice he ran 410 at the straight-rail game. Willie certainly has a great future before him. He is at present giving exhibitions in New Orleans.

More Teams for Paris Games.

Georgetown university has decided to join the ranks of the other American colleges which will send athletic teams to Paris next summer to compete at the games to be held at the exposition. Georgetown boasts of some fine athletes, one in particular being the fastest man up to 150 yards in the country. Georgetown, ever since the days of the great Wefers, has enjoyed a foremost position in the college athletic world. This year it has won more prizes than any other university at the various winter indoor meets. The mainstay of the team which will go abroad is A. F. Duffey, who is a second round Wefers as a sprinter. He won the A. A. U. championship sprints last

year, and is acknowledged to be the fastest short-distance man on this side of the Atlantic. Syracuse university is also preparing to send a team to Paris. According to the latest English exchanges the games to be held at the Paris exposition will be thoroughly representative in character as well as in name, and with the possible exception of one or two Australians, every man with pretensions to world's championship honors is likely to compete. The rumor that the English cracks would taboo the games on account of the strained relations between France and England were effectually disposed of at the last meeting of the Amateur Athletic Association of England, and it has been decided that an English team should be selected from this year's championship winners.

A Well-Known Welter-Weight.

Charles McKeever, one of the cleverest boxers around the 150-pound mark in this country, signalled his return to the ring after a long absence by out-pointing Matty Matthews in a six-



CHARLES MCKEEVER.

round go in Philadelphia recently. McKeever has faced many of the best men of his weight in this country and has made a most creditable record. He fought "Mysterious Billy" Smith a twenty-round draw in New York last year, but later on lost to him in twenty rounds. McKeever has twice met that wonderful but erratic boxer, Young Griffo, defeating him once, and also fighting him to a draw. He has boxed "Kid" Lavigne on two different occasions, but no decision was rendered either time.

Thought to Be a Coming Man.

"Kid" Parker of Denver is looked upon as a coming by western sporting men. George Siler, who refereed his fight with Jack Daly of Wilmington, whom he finished in two rounds, says: "If there is any fight manager with a man in his stable capable of doing 135 pounds who can defeat the 'Kid' he can clean up at least \$10,000, provided the fight takes place in that city. The sports in Colorado consider the 'Kid' a world beater, and will back their opinion with all kinds of money."

In the Roped Arena.

Oscar Gardner, the "Omaha Kid," has a brother, Eddie, who has done good work with his fins. He was whipped by Dave Sullivan in nineteen rounds in Brooklyn not long ago, but made a good stand, at one time having Sullivan almost out. He is an ambitious fighter, and is willing to tackle any of them in his class.

Joe Gans, the Baltimore negro, who has been denounced in some quarters as a quitter for his action in refusing to go farther after the twelfth round with Frank Earne, the lightweight champion, has been matched for a go with Dal Hawkins, the clever San Francisco lightweight. Gans has scored over "Spike" Sullivan, who knocked Hawkins out in twenty-two rounds in New York in 1898.

Sharkey has made the announcement that after Sept. 1 he will break with his manager, Tom O'Rourke, and paddle his own canoe. The sailor gave out this statement after the articles for a match with Gus Ruhlman, on July 16, had been signed. If either man is whipped before that date the match is on. Sharkey is to fight at a gymnasium on his Sheephead Bay place, and in time expects to learn how to play the piano, so 'tis said.

Ruhlman shows considerable nerve in making matches with both Fitzsimmons and Sharkey, but then Gus' work of late entitles him to recognition from the big ones. He has been defeating me just below the top notch class, and also has boxed with some of the best. The only case in which he really made a bad showing was against Sharkey, when he was put out in one round. If Ruhlman defeats Fitzsimmons he will challenge Jeffries for the championship.

Other Sporting Matters.

Nearly \$400,000 in purses was hung up for the trotters in France.

Five of the get of Axtell have been sold for nearly \$21,000 during the four months.

In all probability the Bonner will erect a monument over the grave of Maud S.

James A. Murphy, once owner of Star Pointer, 1:59 1/4, will visit York with his crack team, 2:15 1/4, and Mohican, 2:18 1/4, attempt to win the title of champion of the speedway.

John (Directum) Kelly will good stable this season, including the Great, 2:12 1/4; Sidney, 2:14 1/4; Lucy Carr, 2:14 1/4; light, 2:20 1/4; Quoddy Girl, 2: several lively green ones.

ON THE COUNTRY ROAD.—THE ACCIDENT.

